

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

20 NOV. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Nuclear test ban talks

a) Ambassador Thompson reports that Gromyko told Western ambassadors at a reception Friday that Moscow would accept US-UK proposals for a renewal of negotiations on an atomic test ban. No date was mentioned.

b) Unconditional Soviet acceptance of the US-UK proposal would be a complete departure from their stand that the test question be considered only in the context of general disarmament.

c) We have seen nothing more of the fragmentary indications of preparations for a nuclear test at Kapustin Yar [redacted]

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2. Adenauer-Kroll-Khrushchev

a) The US Embassy in Bonn notes an "incredible" situation. Kroll is returning to Moscow, allegedly not instructed to talk about Berlin, but soon to be Khrushchev's guest on the Black Sea.

b) It sees Adenauer as expecting some new Soviet bilateral pitch which could result in diminished pressure on West Germany and even Berlin and which he thinks Kroll could best exploit. ([redacted])

c) The Embassy has heard "reliably" that Kroll, in justifying to President Luebke his famous talk with Khrushchev, said that Ambassador Thompson had congratulated him and had said he would recommend to President Kennedy that the ideas advanced by Kroll should be followed up. [redacted]

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For The President Only—Top Secret

3. Finland

- a) Kekkonen's planned visit to see Khrushchev on Friday may be a last ditch effort to stave off consultations on defense matters.
- b) Yesterday in an election campaign speech Kekkonen described West German Defense Minister Strauss' trip to Norway as an "incredible disservice to us."
- c) Non-Communist leaders are worried. The Agrarian Party Secretary seems to assume that Finland in the end has no choice but to accede to any Soviet demand. Finnish Communists are displaying arrogance and self-assurance.
- d) Despite their extreme worry, the Finns are not showing panic. Life goes on as usual, with everyone hoping for a solution.

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4. [] recommend
going ahead with Volta
project in Ghana

[] 50X1
[] not to do so 50X1
would risk losing Ghana. [] 50X1
[] Nkrumah is 50X1
firmly in power and will remain so,
barring assassination. [] 50X1
[] the economic outlook to be go 50X1
and [] Nkrumah will follow an 50X1
independent course in East-West
relations, while socializing certain
aspects of the economy. [] 50X1

5. South Vietnam

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Reporting as of late last week is
not encouraging. Viet Cong influence
still appears on the increase through-
out South Vietnam; government security
operations appear to be having little
effect on the widespread Viet Cong
guerrilla, terrorist and propaganda
operations. The psychological situa-
tion in Saigon was "momentarily
stable but still highly volatile
pending the hoped-for, US-inspired
new phase in the war," with some
uneasiness over the absence of a
visible aftermath to General Taylor's
visit. The Diem government was
being openly criticized, but coup
plotting appeared to be temporarily
in abeyance. []

NOTES

- A. Press reporting to the contrary, current and recent field training activity of bloc forces in western Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany does not appear to constitute a coordinated Warsaw Pact maneuver. It appears, rather, to comprise separate field exercises, in some instances at divisional or army level. [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] 50X1
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- B. The Tito-Nasir-Nehru communique contains no surprises. It did, though, note "a certain improvement in the international situation" and expressed pleasure with efforts toward negotiations on Berlin.
- C. President Garcia is still unwilling to concede the Philippine election to Macapagal and we think he may yet try some maneuver to stay in office or to keep Macapagal out.
- D. We are inclined to believe that new East German construction yesterday on the Berlin wall is psychological warfare--to strengthen the impression that the border and the wall are inviolable.
- E. Although most of the Algerians have ended their 19-day hunger strike, Ben Bella and two other leaders are reportedly still holding out.
- F. Phoumi may prove difficult over the three princes meeting in Vientiane. Souvanna and Souphannouvong apparently want to bring [redacted] troops [redacted] for their security and Phoumi doesn't like it. 50X1

- G. Turkish politicians, under strong military pressure, finally reached agreement Saturday on the distribution of posts in a coalition cabinet under Inonu. Such a cabinet will probably get an initial vote of confidence, but its future does not appear bright.
- H. US Consul General Hill, who yesterday had a "most interesting day," heaps credit on Balaguer and on the responsibility of the opposition groups. He notes that, prior to their departure, the main concern of Hector and Arismendi Trujillo was to get their money out so they could live in exile in the accustomed fashion.

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The Soviets repeated Saturday their claim to have solved the problem of developing an anti-ballistic missile system.

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